

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging device comprising:
 - a network interface adapted for coupling to a network; and
 - a processing facility, wherein the processing facility is adapted to request a device configuration to upgrade an internal configuration of the imaging device from a second imaging device through the network interface in response to receiving an external upgrade command through the network interface from ~~given by~~ an external management facility and a network location of the second imaging device.
2. (Previously Presented) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the device configuration from the second imaging device is requested from a storage location that is selected from the group consisting of: the second imaging device, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, a server, and a third imaging device.
3. (Previously Presented) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the external upgrade command is given by an external management facility which resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.
4. (Previously Presented) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the device configuration from the second imaging device is selected from a group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.
5. (Previously Presented) The imaging device of claim 4, wherein the device configuration from the second imaging device comprises at least one configuration parameter, where a mask is applied to the at least one configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on the imaging device while being upgraded.
6. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method comprising:
 - communicating with a first imaging device having a device configuration with an external management facility;

communicating with a defined list of second imaging devices, each second imaging device having a configuration; and
directing the second imaging devices with the external management facility of the first imaging device to update their device configuration using the device configuration of the first imaging device in a manner selected from the group consisting of: retrieving the device configuration from the first imaging device, storing the device configuration of the first imaging device in a storage location, and directing each of the second imaging devices to retrieve the device configuration of the first imaging device from the storage location; and directing each of the second imaging devices to retrieve the device configuration from the first imaging device.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer usable medium of claim 6, wherein the device configuration is selected from the group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of updating device configuration for imaging devices connected to a network, comprising:
defining a list of similar imaging devices connected to the network, wherein the similar imaging devices share a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information;
defining a network location associated with desired device configuration for the list of similar imaging devices; and
directing each imaging device of the list of similar imaging devices with an external management facility to retrieve the device configuration from the network location, by communicating with each imaging device of the list of similar imaging devices across the network with the external management facility.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
communicating with the imaging devices connected to the network with a management facility, wherein the management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
- retrieving the device configuration of an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices with the management facility, wherein the similar imaging device shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the list of imaging devices; and
 - placing the device configuration at the network location.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the device configuration is selected from the group consisting of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and at least one configuration parameter.
12. (Previously Presented) The imaging device of claim 8, wherein the device configuration is at least one device configuration parameter, and wherein a mask is applied to the at least one device configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on the imaging device while being upgraded.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the network location is selected from the group consisting of: an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices and shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the list of imaging devices, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, and a server.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
- periodically checking for changes in device configuration, and if a change is noted, initiating a follow-up update.
15. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading an imaging device, comprising:
- receiving across a network an external upgrade command from an external management facility and a network location associated with a desired device configuration for the imaging device; and
 - retrieving the desired device configuration from the network location.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the desired device configuration is that of a similar imaging device, wherein the similar imaging device shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the imaging device.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving the external command from the external management facility, wherein the management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
retrieving the device configuration of a selected imaging device with a management facility; and
placing the device configuration at the network location.
19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the network location is selected from the group consisting of: an imaging device, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, and a server.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the imaging device selects an appropriate version of the desired device configuration from the network location to match its type.